

H.R. 4899, Rural America Health Corps Act

Sponsored by Reps. Phil Roe, M.D. (R-TN), David Kustoff (R-TN) and Cheri Bustos (D-IL)

Encourages Innovative Care Delivery in Rural Areas

Background:

Rural America faces health care delivery challenges. Attracting and retaining health care providers is a huge challenge. This leads to longer wait times and difficulty in accessing care. Student debt plays a role, and it is an increasingly challenging issue for hospitals in rural areas.

This bill would enhance the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) to include a Rural America Healthcare Corps to incentivize academic medical centers and health care graduates to rotate through underserved communities, and a range of sites would qualify for the program.

The Bill:

- Creates a new loan repayment program titled “NHSC Rural Provider Loan Repayment Program.”
- Ensures practitioners would be eligible for loan repayment on a sliding scale, based on the severity of the shortage in that area.
- Waives any associated income tax liability for the loan repayment program.
- Other than these provisions, the program would follow the same rules as the current NHSC program.

The National Rural Health Association supports the Rural America Health Corps Act.

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